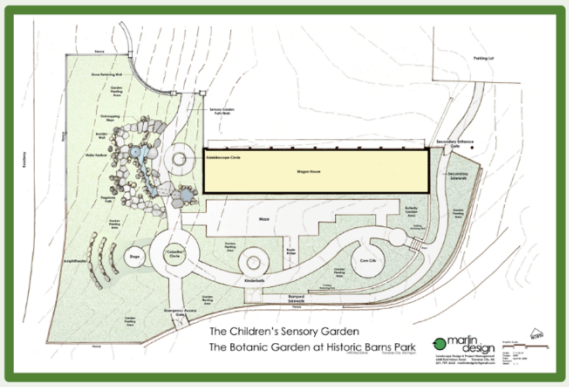


Photo Courtesy of Mark Polinko

Traverse City Logo Garden
Photo Courtesy of Susan & George Townsend

Photo Courtesy of The Boardman River Nature Center

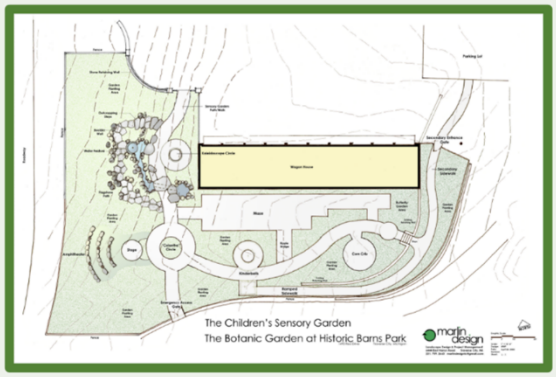
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Landscape Design School
Course 2
Series 24

In-person

Thursday & Friday
October 8-9, 2026
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

The Boardman River Nature Center
1450 Cass Rd.
Traverse City, Michigan 48685



Landscape Design School
Course 2

Is sponsored by:

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Central Region

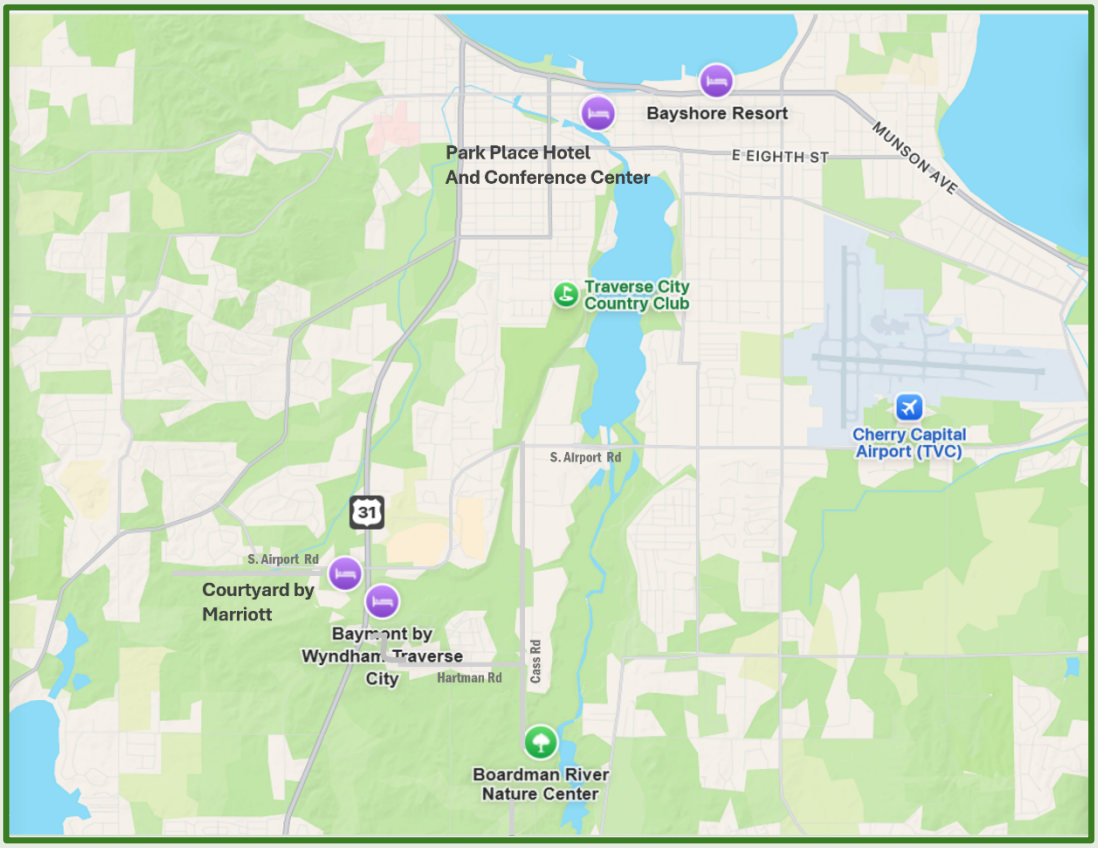
The Friendly Garden Club
Of Traverse City, Inc.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Landscape Design School
Course 2
Series 24

About Our Meeting Location

The Boardman River Nature Center, pictured on the front cover, located at 1450 Cass Rd in Traverse City, is home to the Grand Traverse Conservation District, GTCD. Serving northern Michigan, the GTCD provides public access to more than 3000 acres of treasured natural areas around the county and is dedicated to educating the public of all ages about sustainable land management practices to create a healthy, diverse ecosystem, including teaching sustainable farming practices at their incubator farm.



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Landscape Design School
Course 2
Series 24

Overnight Accommodations

Closest to the Nature Center:

Baymont Inn 2326 N US 31S. Just South of Airport Rd. $$ Breakfast 1.8 Miles from Boardman River Nature Center (BRNC).

Courtyard by Marriott 3615 S. Airport Rd, West. On the corner of Airport Rd. and US31 S. $$$ Breakfast 2.2 Miles from BRNC.

Downtown:

Park Place Hotel 300 E. State St. $$$ Restaurant available. 4.1 Miles from BRNC.

Waterfront:

Bayshore Resort 833 E. Front St. $$$$ Breakfast 5.1 Miles from BRNC

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Landscape Design School
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Course 2 Curriculum

Thursday October 8, 2026

8:30 -9:00	Registration	
9:00-10:00	Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures	Matthew Ross
10:00- 10:10	Break	
10:10 - 11:10	Plants in the Landscape	Matthew Ross
11:10- 11:20	Break	
11:20 - 12:20	Container Gardens for Small Spaces	Jeanine Rubert
12:20 - 1:15	Lunch Break	
1:15 - 2:15	Landscape Design Process	Tim Banfield
2:15 - 2:30	Break	
2:30- 3:30	Redesign of Areas	Tim Banfield
3:30- 4:00	Review	

Friday October 9, 2026

8:30 -9:00	Registration	
9:00-10:00	Structures in the Landscape	Tim Banfield
10:00- 10:10	Break	
10:10 - 11:10	Designing for Pollinators and Wildlife	Patti Travioli
11:10- 11:20	Break	
11:20 - 12:20	Development of North American Landscape Design	Tim Banfield
12:20 - 1:15	Lunch	
1:15 - 2:15	Accessible, Enabling and Therapeutic Gardens	Tim Banfield
2:15 - 2:30	Break	
2:30- 3:30	Overused, Often Invasive plants and Native Alternatives in your area	Shelly Stusick
3:30- 4:00	Review	

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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About Our Instructors

Tim Banfield

Tim is the owner and President of Outdoor Living, Inc., in Lansing, Michigan. With over 45 years of professional experience, Tim received his BLA degree from Michigan State University and has been a Licensed Landscape Architect since 1980. He is an on-going member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. He taught at Lansing Community College beginning in 1989 and has generously taught Landscape Design School for Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. members for 30 years! His giving back to the community has been multiplied many times over as his LDS students have been knowledgeable participants in various projects in their own community.

Matthew Ross

Matthew is the Executive Director of the Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park in Traverse City, Michigan. A Michigan native, he is a graduate of Michigan State University, receiving his BS in Horticulture, emphasis in Landscape Design Construction Management and an MS in Horticulture, emphasis Urban Forestry. Interestingly, while at MSU, Matthew was the recipient of one of the Michigan Garden Clubs Scholarships. After completing his master's degree, he taught at Owens Community College, in Ohio, for 6 years, before becoming the Director of Continuing Education at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia for almost 9 years. Since coming to Traverse City, he has overseen the design and construction of several new gardens and significant expansion of programming at the Botanic Garden. Matthew generously began teaching Landscape Design School for MGC during the previous series, which started in 2024.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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About Our Instructors, continued.

Jeanine Rubert

Jeanine is co-owner of Pine Hill Nursery, a family-owned business with two locations in northern Michigan, Pine Hill Village Gardens in Traverse City and Pine Hill Nursery & Landscaping in Kewadin. She is a Michigan Certified Nurseryman, the voice of Pine Hill, on two call-in radio shows and a frequent, beloved speaker and many area garden clubs. Jeanine has generously helped as an instructor for Gardening School when it was last held in Traverse City.

Patti Travioli

Patti has a BS degree in Horticulture from Michigan State University. Before retiring, she was the Manager for the Biology Department Greenhouse and Botany Laboratory at Central Michigan University and Curator of the CMU Fabiano Botanical Garden. Patti will help us understand the principles of creating a landscape that is balanced for pollinators, wildlife and humans.

Shelly Stusick

Shelly earned her BS degree in Natural Resource Management from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI. Since then, through the Huron Pines AmeriCorps, she worked two terms at the Leelanau Conservancy, where she helped maintain trail systems; monitored, reported, and managed aquatic and terrestrial invasive species; and planned, budgeted and led ecological restoration projects. Since 2020 she has been with the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network as their Go Beyond Beauty Program Specialist. Her responsibilities include creating and organizing outreach programs to educate people about invasive species and creating partnerships to help replace invasives with native species.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Exam
For Consultant Certification

All National Garden Clubs (NGC) members who successfully complete all four courses with test results at 70% or higher will qualify for title of National Garden Clubs (NGC) "Landscape Design Consultant."

The exam and course evaluation will be conducted online. Links will be emailed to participants on Saturday October 10, 2026 and your completed submission is due no later than midnight Saturday October 17, 2026. Participants will have 3 hours to complete the exam in one session. DO NOT log out or turn off your computer during the test.

There will be 50 multiple choice questions on material covered in the classroom. The test may be completed using your class materials and notes.

All National Garden Clubs (NGC) members who successfully complete all four courses with test results at 70% or higher will qualify for the title of National Garden Clubs (NGC) "Landscape Design Consultant."
Non-members may complete the courses and the tests, join an MGC garden club within one year from the last course, and become an NGC "Landscape Design Consultant."

All MGC Landscape Design Consultants also automatically become a member of the MGC Michigan Consultants Council at no additional cost.

Existing NGC Landscape Design Consultants may refresh their credentials as often as once per year, but must refresh at least every 5 years, to maintain their credentials.

**** Check with your local MSUE Master Gardener Advisor regarding education credits.**

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Landscape Design School
Course 2
Series 24

Registration Fees

Member Fee: $60

Non-Member Fee: $75

REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 10, 2026

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

No refunds after the registration deadline.

There will be a 10% late fee after the registration deadline, if late registration is accepted by the Chair.

All cancellations will incur a 10% fee

Payment will be accepted on-line when you register, and you will automatically receive a reply that your registration is complete.

If you are unable to pay on-line, you may request to pay by check.

Please email Ronalee Polad for instructions:
rpolad@migardenclubs.org

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Landscape Design School
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Important NGC Forms

All attendees seeking credit for this program must have an NGC Form 6 or 7 on record with the MGC School State Chair. If this is your first course, fill out a Form 6, or your first Refresher, fill out a Form 7. Follow the links below:

NGC Form 6:

Ctrl + Click here for NGC Form 6

NGC Form 7:

Ctrl + Click here for NGC Form 7

Submit your completed Form 6 or Form 7 via email to:
Deb Plichta
dplichta@migardenclubs.org

If you are from out of state, please request an official record from your State School Chair.

Note: All lectures and tours must be attended for credit to be given. If you have a disability and need accommodation, please contact the local chair before registration to facilitate accommodation.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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YOUR HOSTS

The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City, Inc.

Janet Hickman, Local Chair
Marilyn Astroth
Terry Harding
Sue Soderberg
Marilyn Rebant
Mary Melvin

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Lisa Robinson, President
Ronnie Dush, President-Elect
Jean Horrocks, 3rd Vice President Schools
Deb Plichta, State Landscape Design Chair
Dorothy Sandoval, District 5 Director
Ronalee Polad, Registrar

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Landscape Design School
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Contact Us

All communication with registrants will be via email. Please save Local Chair, Janet Hickman's email in your contacts so our communications with you do not go to your spam folder.

janethickman@migardenclubs.org

For further information on all NGC Schools,

Please visit the website links below:

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC)

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Landscape Design School
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JOIN US!

There are many MGC garden clubs throughout the state. If you are interested in finding a club near you go to the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., website at:

www.migardenclubs.org

Click on the JOIN US! tab

on the ribbon at the top of the page.

Then Click on “Find Your Local Garden Club”.

Clubs are organized by County on the State Map.

We hope you become a member!

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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REGISTER

If you wish to register, please click on the gray box below. You will be re-directed to the Michigan Garden Clubs website to complete your registration.

Beginning August 10, 2026
Register for
LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL
Course 2
by clicking here

By following the above link, you acknowledge that you understand the information presented in this brochure and wish to register.

Note: Any photos taken at this event may be used in upcoming informational and promotional materials.

If you do not want your photo used please notify the School Registrar when you check in.